[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

found that the proposed road connecting the two Estates was impracticable owing to the configuration of the country. The object was since ascertained to be only the connection between Kanjirapalli and Erumeli side and an estimate for a road connecting Kanjirapalli with Erumeli amounting to Rs. 11,000 was forwarded to Government. If further facts prove that this connection is not enough, the matter will have to be considered again.

Maintenance of Roads by the P. W. Department.

101. **MR. T. J. MATTHEW** (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any departmental circular directing Division and Sub-Division Officers or their subordinates not to entrust the work of maintenance of roads to contractors but to have such works carried out by the department direct?

(*b*) If so, does the circular extend the direction to the case of ryots' roads also?

(*c*) If there is such a circular, will the Government be pleased to state the reason why it was issued?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Yes. When the ryots' roads are taken over for departmental maintenance, they become subject to the circular.

(*c*) The circular was issued in the interests of Government. According to it, the supply of materials is given out on contract; but the actual work is done by the department. The maintenance of a road does not mean its repair throughout its entire length. It is only patch work here and there as occasion requires. In the nature of the work it is best done by the department.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Was the circular in question issued with the sanction of Government?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The circular was issued by the Chief Engineer, being a departmental circular. I am not now in a position to say if it was issued with the sanction of Government. Probably it was not.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Does the circular definitely say that no work should be entrusted to contractors?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The circular says what works shall be given to contractors and what shall be done by the Public Works Department and the material portions have been extracted and given in the answer.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Does it say that contracts for the maintenance of roads should not be given to contractors at all?

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MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No. This is what the circular says.

"Collection and supply of materials should "as a rule be done by contractors on agreements duly executed by them."

What portion should be done by departmental agency is also stated in the circular.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): But the answer says that the actual work should be done by the department. My question is whether the work directed to be done departmentally according to the circular cannot at all be given to contractors.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The circular has to be observed so far as it goes. It says what should be done by the departmental agency and what may be done by contractors.

Grant of P. W. D. Contracts for Road-making to local Contractors.

102. **MR. T. J. MATTHEW** (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the inhabitants of the localities traversed by the ryots' roads and other new roads are very anxious to see that these roads are really improved and well maintained?

(*b*) Will not such persons, if they are given the contracts for improving or maintaining such roads, take greater interest in the work than strangers and turn out the maximum amount of work that can be expected with the amount allotted?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the Chief Engineer to give the contracts for the maintenance and improvement of ryots' roads and other new roads to persons of the localities through which these roads pass?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes; naturally.

(*b*) Much will depend upon the persons who come forward to take up and are entrusted with such works.

(*c*) Contracts for the maintenance of minor roads will be given to such persons as apply to the Executive Engineer and will conform to the rules and practice of the department. In fact the Chief Engineer has already issued instructions in this direction to the Executive Engineers in December 1922.

Bridge across the Minachil River on the Lalam-Ponkunnam Road.

103. **MR. K. I. JOSEPH** (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how long have the people of Minachil been making representations for the construction of a bridge across the Minachil river on the Lalam-Ponkunnam road;

(*b*) when Government sanction was given for its construction;

(*c*) how much money has been sanctioned for the purpose and in which years the money was sanctioned;

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